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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Penfield

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Elizabeth Penfield and I divide my time between Colorado and Georgia, Colorado being my legal residence.

Bears Ears provides vital habitat for wildlife and for the rest of us an important cultural experience, a window into the West that was.

I am writing to protest any efforts to roll back the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (Roadless Rule) in Alaska or elsewhere. Please consider that The Roadless Rule had strong public support to protect some of our nations most pristine public lands, including large parts of the Tongass National Forest. You must choose the No Action alternative. Considering the strength of that support, the Rules benefit to native Alaskans, and the funds generated by tourism, the only valid option would be No Action.

In Southeast Alaska, tourism accounts for 28% of employment and generate an annual \$1 billion in economic benefit, making it far more of an economic driver than the timber industry, which is less than 1% of the regional economy.

Any choice but the No Action alternative would also put wildlife and critical habitat at risk, threaten access to clean water, and be a step in the wrong direction on climate change jeopardizing Alaskans at a time when the state already faces severe challenges related to rising temperatures. I urge you not to abandon the Roadless Rule in Alaska and instead to put the public interest above corporate profits by choosing to keep the rule in place unchanged.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards, Elizabeth Penfield